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MONTANA

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NEWS

SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES

VOLUME 2

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NUMBER 2

Medicaid Service Greatly Extended



GOV. THOMAS L. JUDGE hands SRS Director Ted Carkulis the bill and implementing instructions for the Medical coverage extension. Looking on at the recent signing ceremony were Senator David James (far left) and Senator Jean A. Turnage (right), co-sponsors of the bill.

Governor Signs Bill in Ceremony With Top Officials

Governor Thomas L. Judge recently signed into law his major priority for social legislation, SB-36, which extends Medicaid coverage to an additional 15,000 needy Montanans, including children and senior citizens.

Judge said, "SB-36 will act as an incentive for people to get off the welfare rolls as they can still qualify for medical assistance."

The total cost of the program will be \$2 million which will result in an additional \$6 million in federal funds for the biennium to provide local property tax relief of \$430,000. The bill will be financed with \$270,000 from the general fund and \$1.75 million Montanans will save by transferring the adult categories of welfare to the federal government under HR-1.

The bill was signed in a ceremony in the Governor's office with Senators David James (D), Joplin and Senator Jean Turnage (R) of Polson, and SRS Director Ted Carkulis.

The Governor commended both
(Continued on Page 3)

New SRS Division Formed

A reorganization of several SRS bureaus and agencies has resulted in a new division named the Community Services Division, headed by SRS Deputy Director Frank Sennett as acting administrator.

SRS Director, "This grouping of bureaus and units will effect a closer coordination between the departments while preserving the identity and visibility of each of the units both within and outside the department. Furthermore, this alignment of functions satisfies a

According to Ted Carkulis,

(Continued on Page 10)

COMMENT -

by Lyle Downing



Government has become the main source of funds for health-care services received by the elderly, according to an article in "Geriatrics," a medical publication devoted to the diseases of middle age and beyond. Dr. David T. Berg, a member of the Aging Services Bureau Advisory Board, and an authority on problems of the aging, called our attention to Geriatrics' survey of the impact of Medicare and Medicaid on Senior Citizens.

Geriatrics states that all Medicare expenditures and almost one-half of Medicaid expenses are for persons age 65 or over.

"These programs," the article states, "were responsible for 87% of the \$12.1 billion in public funds spent for health care for the aged in 1971, whereas 80% of the \$36.8 billion personal health care expenditures for persons in the 19 to 64 age group came from public funds."

Geriatrics pointed out that out-of-pocket medical expenses of the elderly have dropped proportionately from more than one-half of their medical bill for 1966 (before Medicare and Medicaid) to approximately one-fourth of the total bill in 1971.

In 1971 the dollar amount they paid directly was only slightly lower. Out-of-pocket medical expense for the individual Senior Citizen averaged \$225 in 1971 as compared with \$234 in 1966.

According to the publication, while this was due in part to higher costs, the greatest cause was increased use of services.

The survey shows that recently the aged have been seeking health care earlier and more hospital

care at a climbing rate since 1966. Hospital care for the elderly in 1971 constituted by far the largest health expense item for persons aged 65 and over. It accounted for approximately \$8.5 billion of their total expenditure of 17.9 billion dollars.

It is also shown that between 1964 and 1969 the average length of a hospital stay for older persons had increased from 12.7 to 15.3 days. There was also a 25% increase in rate of discharges from short-stay hospitals during the same period. This indicates a much greater use of these facilities by persons 65 or older. Annual discharge from short-stay hospitals in 1964 totaled 24,837,000. Of these 3,846,000 were 65 years of age and over. Discharges in 1968 through 1969 averaged 24,673,000, and persons aged 65 and over accounted for 4,302,000 of these.

In other words, 9.4% of the population accounted for 17% of all hospital charges and their illnesses were costlier.

The discharge rate for persons over 65 rose from 186.3 to 232.6 per 1,000 population between 1964 and 1969, a 25% increase. This increase should probably not be attributed to the impact of Medicare. However, there was a corresponding 28% increase between 1959 and 1964.

Geriatrics also stated that while lower income groups generally had greater rates of hospitalization and greater lengths of stay in 1968 through 1969, for persons 65 years and older, there was little difference by income.

The report was based on data collected in a nation-wide survey conducted by interviews in representative samples of households limited to the civilian population of the United States.

Rehab Group Plans Confab

The Montana Association for Rehabilitation is engaged in tentative planning for their annual conference. Members are urged to submit suggestions for conference subjects and possible meeting sites.

The MAR is a private non-profit organization dedicated to handicapped people. Membership now stands at 148 persons from various disciplines. A student chapter has been in existence for several years at Eastern Montana College. Recently, a student chapter was organized on the campus of the University of Montana. Boyce Fowler, SRS, Helena, is Membership Chairman.

Officers elected last fall are Dr. John Self (Eastern Montana College), president; Miss Phyllis Bagley (Missoula Rehabilitation Center), 1st vice-president; Ben Webinger (Special Service Division, SRS), 2nd vice-president; and Mrs. Gloria Hauck (Rehabilitative Services, SRS), secretary. Board members elected are Ed Stocking (Red Cross), Evan Crandall (Great Falls Mental Hygiene Clinic), William Beck (Billings Sheltered Workshop), Allen Anderson (Department of Public Instruction), and David West (R.P.T., Silver Bow General Hospital).

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Senators for their efforts on behalf of the bill and the Legislative Subcommittee that studied the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services.

Judge, as a State Senator in 1967, authored SB-4 which implemented the Medicaid program in Montana. To date, over \$57.4 million of federal funds have been expended for medical, hospital and nursing home benefits for welfare recipients.

Persons over 65 are members of the fastest growing age group in America.

Senior Proves Great Help As RSVP Aid in Helena



RSVP MEMBER FRED HILL, 61, right, goes over details of his job with Roger Stensland, 35, Executive Director of Helena Industries. Mr. Hill handles payrolls, time sheets and production records for the capital city's sheltered workshop.

Fred Hill retired recently from the Mountain Bell Telephone Company, but already has become a valuable asset to another Montana business.

Mr. Hill is a participant in the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and has volunteered to help with business management work at the Helena Industries, a vocational education center that trains mentally retarded persons to perform meaningful work. Mr. Hill has worked with Helena Industries only two months but has already become so interested he spends much more time with the project than he originally intended.

"What I like about the RSVP project, and working with Helena Industries in particular," Mr. Hill said, "is that essentially I am my own boss. I can come and go as I please, and even do some of the work at home. Besides, I believe

the work I am doing is important and as time goes on I hope to do more."

When he worked for the telephone company, Mr. Hill was the Montana Outside Plant Engineer, or as he said, "The guy who got the telephone service from the phone company to the customer's house." He is putting some of his management skills to work for Helena Industries by determining the efficiency of work performed, by calculating costs per item of the materials manufactured, and by assuming most of the responsibility for keeping the books.

Roger Stensland, executive director of Helena Industries is extremely pleased with the contribution Mr. Hill has made and said, "I think the RSVP idea is great. Fred's interest and contribution is very helpful to us. I hope we can find more like him."

The SRS staff needs help with its mailing list. We know some subscribers are inadvertently getting two copies. Also many copies go to the last-known address of persons now deceased. If you are getting two copies or know of copies going to waste, won't you let us know? Please include the mailing label if possible when requesting changes of address or termination of subscription. Thank you.

Fergus Co. Anti-Crime Project

A report released by a national advisory commission in Washington recently gives reason to believe that Fergus County is a leader in what may become a very important factor in reducing and preventing crime.

It concerns the mini-home established here with county financing to provide a place where children or teenagers who are forced from their homes may go, or young people may stay who might otherwise be sent to jail.

The national commission, in trying to reduce crime, recommended strongly that emphasis be shifted from prisons to community correction programs, such as residential treatment homes, for better rehabilitation.

This isn't exactly what the Fergus County home is, but it comes close.

The idea here is to prevent sending first offenders among the young to Pine Hills or the girls' school in Helena and keep them close at home instead where practical.

This, it is believed, won't expose them to others who have already become hardened criminals.

The Fergus mini-home also serves another purpose.

Children and teenagers who are at odds with their parents and are forced out of or run away from their homes—often in the middle of the night—will have a place where they may go to spend the rest of the night, or many nights, until things are worked out. This means they won't be forced into the streets, or have to seek shelter in jail.

The Fergus County program is just a few months old, but has already been most helpful.

Hopes of the committee that is in charge are that federal money will be available soon to pay the

cost, and they have some reason for this optimism.

In the meantime, the county is paying the bill, which is \$7,500 a year, for a home where up to three children or teenagers may stay at once, which is considerably less than the \$24,000 a year it costs to keep three persons in a state institution.

But even more important is the fine environment and new hope it gives these young people compared with time spent in a State institution.

The county commissioners, who watch the taxpayers' money with great care, were somewhat skeptical of the program when it was proposed, and with good reason.

But it looks now like the tax dollars are being well spent, with strong possibilities that the burden will be shifted from the county to the state.

And the real payoff is the benefit for these young people—the better chance it gives them in life.

Lewistown Daily News

FREE BOOKLET ON WILLS

A free booklet, published by The Episcopal Church Foundation, tells you how to evaluate gifts in relation to the latest Federal tax laws—how to make Uncle Sam your partner in giving—how benefits to you as donor can be substantial. THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH FOUNDATION, Dept. NAT-1272, 815 Second Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017.

Regardless of your age, social security contributions must be paid if you work at a job covered by social security. Even though you get monthly retirement checks, you still have to pay the social security contributions on your earnings.

Where The Action Is

Are you retired, in good health, and bored?

If so, ACTION may be for you. Formed several years ago to bring the various federal volunteer agencies under one roof, ACTION has 70,000 opportunities for volunteer service by Senior Citizens, with an increase to 80,000 expected by July of 1973.

RSVP, the newest volunteer program, has been discussed elsewhere in these pages. Foster Grandparents, another program only for Seniors, also is operating in Montana. Under this program, Seniors work primarily with institutionalized children, giving themselves to make life brighter for disadvantaged children.

Volunteers in Service to America, VISTA, has 300 volunteers over 60 and is looking for more. Volunteers come from a wide range of backgrounds: retired businessmen, lawyers, housewives, former welfare clients; anyone, according to ACTION spokesmen, with time, energy, and commitment.

ACTION says VISTA is particularly attractive to Seniors because they work in their home communities in many cases.

But if you would like to get away from home, the Peace Corps would like to talk to you. Dorothy Foster, of Dillon, was 60 and scheduled for retirement when she switched from a classroom in Montana to one in Thailand.

Or, if you have business know-how, there is SCORE, Service Corps of Retired Executives, which currently has 4,000 Seniors providing advice to struggling businessmen on sales, profits, productivity, merchandising, record keeping, and all the other things that go into developing a successful business.

If you think you have something to contribute, you can find out by writing to ACTION, Washington D.C. 20520.

Butte Music Teacher is "Dynamite"!

There is a remarkable music teacher in Butte, Montana, who has designed such an interesting program that 100 out of 150 sixth graders at Emerson Grade School have voluntarily joined her chorus. And the chorus meets one-half hour before regular school hours!

Nearly as remarkable perhaps, the teacher: Miss Dorothy "Dede" Dunn, has been totally blind since birth. She is one of the true success stories of the Visual Services Bureau of the Department of SRS, according to Emil Honka, bureau chief.

Dede received from the Department of SRS braille training, mobility and typing at a special school in Minneapolis. During her time at the College of Great Falls and later at Montana State University, she received tuition assistance and singing lessons. Upon completion of her music degree from MSU, Dede was given a



AN EXPERT MUSICIAN, Dede accompanies her third-graders as they practice.



DEDE LEADS a lively 25-minute class of grade schoolers twelve times each day.

braille typewriter from SRS and assistance in locating a job. She was hired by Butte School District No. 1, and Bill Gannon, Visual Services Mobility Specialist, spent time orientating her to the city.

Dede was hired as a music instructor at both the Emerson Grade School and the Emerson Annex Grade School. There she teaches 12 frantic 25 minute classes a day to third, fourth, fifth and sixth graders.

Dede is very frank with her pupils and each fall takes time to orient them to her blindness.

"I let them use my cane, close their eyes and bump into things," she said. "Also they use my braille writer. I tell them the only thing different about me is that I'm blind. I can still hear them, feel them, and talk to them."

The students respond with



DEDE and her principal from the Emerson Annex, Mrs. Edna Bertschke, get together in the teacher's lounge after a hectic day.

kindness and understanding. They move chairs before she can trip, write on the blackboard for her and obey her as they would a sighted teacher.

"One time," Dede said, "I was talking very frankly with the children and asked them if they felt sorry for me at all. One said yes and I asked if it was because I was blind. The student said 'No, be-



THE PRINCIPAL from Emerson Grade School, Dan Harrington and Dede share a story.

cause you work so hard!'"

And she certainly does. Besides her music classes and chorus she is active in church and social groups, is composing her own musical works and is a member of the Montana Association for the Blind. Also she arranges many numbers for various groups.

Arranging musical numbers for a blind person is most difficult. Dede must first decide on the arrangement, change the notes into braille words and later, after all alterations have been made, work with a friend to translate the



DEDE CHECKS her Braille "map" for directions before beginning a walk between her two schools.

braille into a musical score. Of course, in order to play the piece she must memorize the entire work, but to practice, or learn the number, she uses her specially prepared braille song books.

Dede lives in an apartment by herself and commutes to work daily with a friend. She alternates teaching at the schools so occasionally must walk the four blocks between them. For this she has prepared a braille "map" which tells

SOCIAL SECURITY RATES ADJUSTED TO REFLECT EARNING POWER

Starting in 1973, people who are working while getting social security benefits can earn more but never lose more than \$1 in benefits for each \$2 earned, according to Jack Sharp, social security district manager in Helena.

"The more you earn, the higher your total income will be," Sharp said. "Under the new social security law, social security payments will be reduced by \$1 for every \$2 earned over \$2,100 in a year."

Previously, monthly payments were reduced by \$1 in benefits for every \$2 earned between \$1,680 and \$2,880 in a year—and by \$1 for every \$1 earned over \$2,880.

"People 72 and over will continue to get their full social security benefits regardless of earnings, Sharp said. Under the new law, people under 72 can earn as much as \$2,100 in a year and get their full social security benefits. Different rules apply to people getting social security disability benefits if they work.

In addition, starting in 1973, full benefits can be paid for any month in which an employee's wages are not more than \$175—or he didn't perform substantial services in self-employment. Previously, the monthly limit was \$140.

her exactly what turns to make, which steps are up and which down and other specific information not immediately apparent to a sighted person.

The principals at both schools are very fond of Dede and her work and she is equally fond of them. The word handicap never was mentioned and probably because with Dede Dunn, there is no handicap apparent.

Montana Senior Activities Flourish

The week at the *Harlowton* Senior Center Club started with the monthly Club meeting on Tuesday morning. Election of officers for 1973 resulted as follows: Fred Hanzlik' chairman; Helen Yonetz, first vice chairman; serving as Host and Hostess Chairman, Lou Vejraha, second vice chairman; serving as Membership Chairman, Doris Taylor, secretary-treasurer. They took office at the annual meeting on Thursday, January 25.

* * *

The *Wolf Point* Senior Citizens' Center located in the former Wolf Den on Main Street West now has a public address system. Mrs. Einar Lund said recently that Wolf Point businessmen and individuals had made monetary donations toward the cost of the system which will be used for programs at the center.

* * *

The board of directors of the *Townsend* Senior Housing has approved a first year budget and has set the minimum basic rental at \$80.00 per month for each apartment. This rental fee includes all utilities, including water, power, electricity and heat.

* * *

The *Broadwater* County Senior Citizens Club is collecting used hearing aids to be repaired and recycled for the needy. Anyone wishing to donate please call 266-3486.

* * *

The Senior Citizens of *Polson*, by their program committee, have tentatively made plans to have each month a card party, a dance, and a pot luck dinner.

* * *

The possibility of having a Meals on Wheels project in *Livingston* was discussed recently at a special meeting of local interest-

ed persons. The session was held in the home of Mrs. Warren McGee. In attendance were representatives of civic, service and church groups.

* * *

Election of officers was held at the *Three Forks* Senior Citizens' Center. George Snyder conducted the business meeting, during which time the nominating committee presented their choices for the offices. They were accepted unanimously.

The new officers are: President, Mrs. Ed Tracy; Vice-President, Margaret Cleveland; Secretary, Lois May, and Treasurer, Jennie Andriolo.

* * *

Melvin Hagele was elected president of the *Fairview* Senior Citizens' Housing Committee recently.

Other officers elected were Elmer Cook, vice-president, and Mrs. Harvey Schmidt, secretary-treasurer.

* * *

A cultural series scheduled for the third Tuesday of each month at the Kathleen Walford Senior Citizens Center in *Missoula* will offer programs of music, education, social services and travel, Mrs. Fred Bell, program coordinator, announced. Residents of Western Montana will be able to participate in the series, Mrs. Bell said, since transportation from various communities is being arranged.

* * *

Future meetings of the *Judith Basin* Senior Citizens group will be held in the old Suden Plumbing Shop, 611 1st Ave. South in Stanford. The building has been repainted on the inside, with paint and labor donated by Buster Goy-

ins. A new sink and stove have been installed. The store was donated by George Brownlee and plumbing by Don Rogers.

* * *

The *Cut Bank* Senior Citizens' Center opened on Saturday, Feb. 3, 1973. This Center will be used as a social, recreational and activities source for Cut Bank's lively oldsters. It has been cleaned and painted with volunteer labor and furnished by generous contributions from individuals and groups.

* * *

Roundup Senior Citizens pot-luck dinner will be every Friday at 6 p.m. at the Senior Citizens Center. Everyone is welcome and anyone wanting a Meal on Wheels at 6 p.m., call 323-1403. If you need a ride, call the same number.

* * *

Charles Miller Sr. showed slides he had taken in Alaska. A pot-luck dinner and program was presented at a meeting of the *Valley County* Senior Citizens in IOOF Hall recently. All senior citizens are welcome to attend the meetings held every Wednesday and Friday from 1 to 4 p.m. in the IOOF Hall. At the regular meetings crafts and hobby classes are taught, cards are played and lunch is served.

* * *

The Senior Citizens Center in *Superior* will be open every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 1 to 5 p.m. for general activities. Every Saturday morning from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., a knitting class will be conducted by Ione Case.

(Continued on Page 15)

Medicare pays for post hospital care in an extended care facility only when the stay is medically necessary.

Providence Resocialization

400 Helped in



THE NEW PROVIDENCE RESOCIALIZATION CENTER at 920 4th Ave. N., Great Falls.

The Providence Resocialization Center was opened as the Providence Halfway House in Great Falls in September, 1968. This facility was furnished to the Cascade Council on Alcoholism by Cascade County and the City of Great Falls. During its first three years, the Providence Halfway House helped over 400 individuals begin the long fight against alcoholism and the slow process of rehabilitation.

From January 1970 through August 1971, the Providence Halfway House worked with 169 people and during the same period more people came for help than the facility could accommodate. Due to this increasing need and individuals seeking help, the acquisition of a new facility was started. The Sacred Heart Convent located at 920 Fourth Avenue North was obtained and the Providence Halfway House became the Providence Resocialization Center. The name change was the result of a more adequate alcoholism program and the larger facility located in a residential area. The facilities included in the house are a chapel, dining room, kitchen, library, TV room, men's and women's day rooms, laundry, individual women's rooms, double men's rooms, workshops, storage area, and offices. The Cascade Council on Alcoholism was also donated a ranch facility for its use. The ranch can accommodate 10 residents. This facility is located two miles north of Carter, Montana,



TV Room

House; A Story of Hope

4 Year History

which is 25 miles north-east of Great Falls.

The residential capacity within the two facilities has virtually tripled the size of the original program. The criteria to measure the success of the alcoholism program at the Providence Center is hard to establish because an adequate follow-up program has not been fully established yet. This is currently in the planning stage and will be implemented in the very near future. With the aid of employees and other agencies, it has been determined that approximately 41% of the residents that participate in the Center's resocialization program were gainfully employed.

The greatest concern of the Providence Resocialization Center is the rising number of alcoholics and how they affect the family, friends, and employers. Statistics show that in Cascade County alone there are 6,953 alcoholics or 8.5% of the County population. Every alcoholic affects, directly or indirectly, at least six other people, causing problems with their lives. This means that Cascade County has at least 41,718 residents directly affected by the problem of alcoholism. In other words, approximately one-half of the county's population of 81,804 persons is affected by alcoholism and its related problems. The before-mentioned figures justify the need and continuance of a very strong and effective alcoholism program.



Kitchen



Women's Room



Chapel



EXTREMELY PLEASED with their new office quarters, the "top brass" of SRS enjoy a moment at the new building in Helena. From left to right are Joan Easbey, secretary; Frank Sennett, Deputy Director and Ted Carkulis, Director. Also housed in the new building is the new Community Services Division.

(Continued from Page 1)

number of federal organizational requirements which must be accommodated."

In conjunction with the construction of a new division, new office spaces have been secured for the division and for the staff of the director's office. They are located at 836 Front Street, Helena, and have provided improved efficiency in communication for all involved.

Personnel serving in the new division include the following:

Child Welfare Services Bureau

Joe Roe, Chief
Norma Cutone

Family and Adult Services Bureau

Margaret Stuart, Chief
Don Sekora
Audrey Zeisler

Social Services Field Bureau

Bill Welsh, Chief
Leslie Kampf

Stenographic and Clerical Personnel for the Above Bureaus

Janet Myren
LaVay Johnson
Sandy Hamlin
Kay Hickman
Ruth Johnson
Rosemary Walsh

Aging Services Bureau

Lyle Downing, Chief
Gerry Eklund
Rich King
Janis Luehr
Stephen McMahon
Minna Miller
James S. O'Rourke
Helen Visser
Vincent Weggenman

A person who becomes disabled by blindness still needs a certain number of social security work credits, but he no longer has to have the credit for recent work required of other disabled workers.

Veterans' Home Foundation Becomes Reality in Montana

Articles of Incorporation for a non-profit Montana Veterans' Home Memorial Foundation were recently sent to Frank Murray, Montana Secretary of State.

Purpose and objectives of the Foundation include functioning as an agency where gifts, contributions and grants for the betterment of the Montana Veterans' Home can be made, with all income to be expended for such purposes as entertainment of residents, recreational projects and what will best contribute to the well being and comfort of the residents of the Montana Veterans' Home.

Documents for incorporation were drafted by Attorney James A. Cumming with the board of trustees for the Foundation consisting of Howard Auston, Harrison Endreson, Father Robert J. Hartman, William H. Liddicoat and Mel Ruder, with Supt. Dick Walsh, ex-officio.

The Hungry Horse News, in an editorial December 15, urged such a Foundation and pointed out that funds now given the Veterans' Home are turned over directly to the State treasury.

Also pointed out were situations in the past such as a \$12,000 bequest willed by an aged deceased veteran to a Veterans' Home superintendent who was here for a relatively brief time.

An attempt was made to correct this situation by a proposed law, but problems were encountered.

Trustees of the new Montana Veterans' Home Memorial Foundation hope the Foundation will help correct such matters and that the entire amount of gifts and other bequests will benefit the home and its residents.

MONTANA ANALYSIS

Rehabilitation: A Changing Concept

One of the most pressing problems facing the Montana programs dealing with drug and alcohol rehabilitation is the very definition of the word rehabilitation, according to Margaret Zednick, and Arthur Hart, bureau chiefs with the Montana Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services.

Traditionally "rehab" has meant complete readjustment of a client and the placement of that person in a paying job. However, according to Mrs. Zednick, often significant gains are made with clients that fall short of placing the clients in jobs.

"An example," Mrs. Zednick said, "would be supplying an artificial arm or leg for a person with an alcoholic problem. This may not qualify for the strict definition of a rehab statistic in an alcoholic program, but I think it is a significant step forward in the outlook that person has of himself."

What Mrs. Zednick refers to is similar to the philosophy that gives credit to a baseball player for a base hit; not simply for just his home runs.

But in the past only the home runs have been reported. This method overlooks much of the work of the alcohol and drug correction program. A new definition of rehabilitation would take into account internal improvements.

A further reason for a more accurate understanding of what rehabilitation is, is the fact the emphasis is changing, by federal mandate, from the "easy" rehabilitation cases to the "hard core" cases.

A "hard core" case might be a person who has repeatedly had an alcoholic or drug problem, has never been totally rehabilitated by the traditional definition and may have concurrent physical or

mental disabilities. "Easy" rehabilitation cases might be the persons who enter a program determined to kick their habit and who have no concurrent disabilities. In the past, work with the "easy" cases has produced the traditional rehabilitation statistics, that is a certain number of persons with a problem versus so many rehabilitated.

"So we may in the future," said Mrs. Zednick, "see a potential drop in the statistics of those persons rehabilitated. But we must begin to establish ways of measuring the true work we are doing, and to take into account that by law our attention will be focused on the "hard core" cases, which often do not produce startling numbers of traditional rehabilitations."

In the drug area in Montana no one yet knows the extent of the problem, let alone the number of hard core drug abusers. Mr. Hart said, "For one reason, unlike alcoholics who are referred to rehabilitation programs by halfway houses, courts and families, the drug abuser is generally only dealt with when he applies for help himself."

There are few established programs in Montana to assist the

drug abuser in seeking rehabilitation. Thus in the last fiscal year in Montana approximately 50 drug users were being served by the division and only five were rehabilitated in the traditional sense.

The services available, however, are varied and are generally offered to the clients at minimal cost or no charge at all. Clients may be offered educational or vocational training, on-the-job training, job placement, emotional counseling or assistance in rehabilitation centers in Texas, Kentucky or Oklahoma. Montana maintains an assistance program at Warm Springs State Hospital for patients only.

For persons with alcoholic problems the picture is somewhat brighter in that mechanisms exist to get the service to the client more readily. In Montana 12 local communities maintain through local, state and federal support, halfway houses where problem drinkers seeking rehabilitation are referred. Also, through the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services 30 rehabilitation counselors and 5 aides across the state work individually with alcoholics. The case load per counselor, however, is heavy, running nearly 200 clients each. But the batting average is much better for cases rehabilitated. For example, in fiscal year 1972 there were 9,262 identified cases and there were 1,041 rehabilitated. The average cost per rehabilitation was \$640.

Thus the drug and alcoholic rehabilitation programs in Montana are in a period of change, stress and increasing work load. Progress is being made, but the definitions are changing and to understand the progress, broader interpretations of rehabilitation must be accepted.

May will be Senior Citizens Month, according to a proclamation by President Nixon. The theme will be "Partnership for Older Americans." In Montana many senior centers are planning activities including inviting the public to visit the centers. Further information is available from Gerry Eklund, Assistant Bureau Chief Aging Bureau Montana SRS, 715 Fee St., Helena, Montana 59601.

Visually Handicapped Aided By H.E.W.

About one in four visually handicapped persons in the Federally-assisted Aid to the Blind Program (AB) is now able to get around unaided, HEW's Social and Rehabilitation Service (SRS) reports.

An SRS study shows that they do so without the help of someone else, a dog, or devices such as a cane, crutches, or a walker. Although these persons have some vision, the main reason more and more of them can travel about independently is the mobility training they are given, a post-World War II development supported by SRS.

With this training, the visually handicapped can locate, ascend and descend stairs; maintain a straight line when walking; locate intersections with and without curbs; and judge traffic sounds, patterns, and movements.

Advanced techniques, first em-

ployed by the Army Medical Corps and the Veterans Administration, are used to instruct the sightless in the handling of special six-ounce long canes, their indispensable props.

The aid to the blind program includes about 80,000 with severely impaired or no vision.

For purposes of the AB program, Federal policy defines blindness as including "persons having insufficient vision to perform tasks for which sight is essential, as well as persons without vision."

The SRS study was based on statistics compiled in 1970. The previous year such statistics were collected was 1962.

This study reveals that in the eight-year period there were increases in attendance at a school for the blind (11.3 to 14.2 percent); increases among those possessing a talking book machine

(10.6 to 16 percent); and increased numbers of blind persons with the ability to read Braille (8.6 to 10.5 percent).

There was also an increase in full-time employment of AB recipients' from 2.7 to 3.8 percent. Recipients never employed decreased, from 36.3 to 33.4 percent.

From 1962 to 1970, AB recipients who had attended high school but not graduated rose from 7.3 to 10.8 percent; those completing high school almost doubled, from 5.6 to 10 percent; and those with some college training rose from 2.4 to 4.3 percent.

Social security back payments for disability can be made for no more than 12 months.

No social security disability payments can be made during the first six months of disability.

SRS Man Chosen For MA. Course

Robert F. McDonnell, an employee of the Disability Determination Bureau in the Rehabilitation Services Division of SRS, in one of a small group of State government employees throughout the country selected to participate in a new graduate degree program at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

The program, which leads to a Master's degree in Special Education, was designed especially for professionals in State government who have the responsibility for determining whether or not claimants for social security disability benefits are disabled within the meaning of the Federal law.

The University developed the curriculum under a special contract with the Social Security Administration.



Robert McDonnell

Under the present pilot program, students can earn 51 hours of credit for a Master's degree in Special Education by attending the University for one quarter in each of four consecutive years. The first two quarters will concentrate on the principles and concepts underlying the evaluation of disabilities on a medical, vocational and sociological basis. The courses for the third and fourth quarters cover a variety of subjects, and include the interpretation and evaluation of research reports, a seminar in public administration, and a course dealing with psychological testing as applied to disability evaluation.

Mr. McDonnell is a graduate from Montana State University and has served with SRS for the last six years.

Insurance For Volunteers

EDITOR'S NOTE: Because of the need for adequate insurance protection for the volunteer, the non-profit organization, Volunteers Insurance Service (VIS), was formed with the assistance of the National Center for Voluntary Action. The purpose of VIS is to research available and feasible insurance relating to volunteers, compile underwriting information, maintain a central insurance library, and to design and place insurance for volunteers.

Any agency using services of volunteers should understand its exposures to a liability claim and provide adequate protection.

A liability claim arising from a volunteer service could be made against (1) the agency, (2) an officer or director of the agency, (3) an employee, or (4) the volunteers.

(1) The agency protects itself against an employee claim by carrying workmen's compensation and employer's liability insurance.

To protect the agency for an act from a non-employee, which would be any member of the public or a volunteer, the agency must have a comprehensive general liability policy. The insurance should be extended to cover personal injury, which includes libel, slander, false arrest, defamation of character and invasion of privacy. Also, if the agency has any

contracts in which it has agreed to hold another party harmless or to assume another's liability, extend the policy by endorsement to cover this contractual liability. A hold-harmless clause in favor of the landlord is automatically covered without charge on the comprehensive general liability policy.

(2) A claim against an officer or director of the agency is covered under the liability policy, as long as that person was acting within the scope of his duties.

(3) Employees of the agency are not covered under the agency's liability policy. For example, if the agency and the personnel supervisor are sued, and there is a judgment rendered 50% against the agency and 50% against the supervisor, the agency policy will not pay for the award against the supervisor.

(4) If the volunteer is sued in connection with services that he is donating to the agency, he is not protected under the agency policy. Also, contrary to the situation with the employees, there is no way to extend the agency policy to protect the volunteer.

Instead, the volunteer must depend upon coverage under his own comprehensive personal liability insurance. However, this policy often excludes a claim "arising out of a business pursuit, except activities therein which are ordinarily incident to non-business pursuit or (b) the rendering or failing to render professional services."

The insurance plan which has been tailored for VIS by Corporate Insurance Management (CIMA) enables the agency, for the first time, to provide insurance protection for its volunteers. The plan provides \$2,500 acci-

Study Evaluates Merit of Consumer Education Programs

A close look at consumer education programs throughout the nation to determine their effectiveness—or, indeed, if they exist at all—will be taken by an Education Commission of the States team of educators, businessmen and government leaders.

The Task Force on Consumer Education, under the chairmanship of Oregon Governor Tom McCall, is developing a questionnaire to survey the 50 states to determine what they are doing in consumer education.

On the basis of data gathered, task force members will make detailed studies in selected states and analyze findings in late March. Recommendations then will be developed for the ECS Steering Committee as to future action ECS may take, or what policy may be considered, to promote consumer education programs in the states.

dental medical and death coverage for the volunteer if injured while performing volunteer services. In addition, should the volunteer be sued in connection with his donated services, he has \$1,000,000 liability protection. The VIS Insurance Plan is underwritten by the Insurance Company of North America (INA).

The cost is \$1.50 for each volunteer per year or part thereof. If the agency joins VIS with a \$5.00 membership charge, it can participate in the plan. The agency must then maintain a volunteer roster and as soon as a person is registered, he or she is protected.

(—from an article by the president of CIMA.)

The SRS News is published every two months, and is available free to all Montana Senior Citizens. Those wishing to subscribe should write to Janis Luebr, Circulation Clerk, SRS News, Penkay Eagles Manor, 715 Fee St., Helena, Mt. 59601.



MRS. GERRY EKLUND, above, was recently appointed Assistant Chief for the SRS Aging Bureau. She previously organized and directed community work in a 16 county region in Eastern Montana. Mrs. Eklund did considerable volunteer work for the Aging Services and is largely credited with establishing senior centers in rural areas. She holds a journalism degree from San Jose State College and one in sociology from Oregon State College.

Taxes A Problem Everywhere

New Yorkers are the most heavily-taxed people in the nation, shelling out \$652 in state-local taxes in 1970, the last year for which statistics are available.

Hawaiian residents pay the second highest state-local taxes in the nation, \$572 per capita for the year 1970, the last for which figures are available. Californians pay \$552 per year to rank third.

Residents of Arkansas pay the lowest state-local taxes in the nation, a total of only \$252 per capita.

The average American paid more in 1972 in withholding taxes on wages and other income, sales taxes, and other hidden taxes than he did for the basic necessities of food, clothing and shelter.

SENIORS URGED TO FORM "RENT WATCH"

The government's Domestic Committee on Aging has approved a "Rent Watch" to assure that landlords renting to Seniors do not raise rents in reaction to the 20 per cent social security increases that was implemented over President Nixon's objections recently.

Senior tenants are being encouraged to report unreasonable rent hikes to their district Internal Revenue Service offices. The IRS is then supposed to provide quick follow-up action.

This arrangement should "encourage the elderly to exercise their rights, minimize their fears, and put landlords on warning that their rental units are being watched," according to "Aging," the HEW publication.

Missoula Amputee Clinic Established

An Amputee Clinic has been established in Missoula under the direction of the Missoula Crippled Children and Adults Rehabilitation Center.

The clinic, under the supervision of Dr. Robert P. Yost, will be held the second Monday of each month at the Rehabilitation Center, 2829 Missoula Road, adjacent to Community Hospital.

Amputees will be given an examination upon their first visit to the clinic and the clinic team will recommend a prosthetic device. Subsequent visits will train patients in the use of the prosthesis and provide physical therapy, according to clinic organizers.

Transportation and living arrangements will be provided through the center if necessary.

Clinic personnel said reports will be made to the patients' doctors or the agencies which referred them to the center.

Booklet About Serious Depressive Illnesses Available from N.I.M.H.

"Learning About Depressive Illness," a pamphlet describing the emotional disorder which is estimated to afflict as many as 4 to 8 million Americans, has been released by the National Institute of Mental Health, of HEW's Health Services and Mental Health Administration.

The booklet describes for the lay reader how a normal reaction to a sad or disappointing experience may persist and become more intense with time, resulting in serious depression. Signs of a severe case of depression are described as they may appear in the three major types of the depressive illnesses. Following a discussion of its causes, the booklet stresses that depressive illness is among the psychiatric disorders most responsive to treatment and explains the various therapeutic approaches most commonly used by psychiatrists and psychologists.

Single courtesy copies of Learning About Depressive Illnesses (DHEW Publication No. HSM 72-9110) are available from Public Inquiries, INMH, Room 15C-17, 4600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

Material for the SRS News is gathered from many sources, not the least of which is voluntary contributions. We are happy to consider all stories and articles submitted. Material must be typed and pictures must be clear, sharp and preferably black and white. Please address all correspondence to Editor, SRS News, 715 Fee St., Helena, Montana 59601.

Senior Activities

(Continued from Page 7)

Officers of the *Townsend Senior Citizens* group announce that a shipment of long-awaited art paints has arrived at their Center, for use by all interested senior citizens. The Center, located at the VFW Hall will be open this Friday afternoon from 1 to 5 p.m. for enjoyment of cards, games, the new paints, and other items members wish to bring along.

* * *

Tax-aide, a program using retired volunteers to counsel other retired persons, is being offered free in *Billings*. "Many older persons are unaware of current legislation, exemptions, and methods of filing. Too often, retired people pay more than required in income taxes," says Irving Quanbeck, Tax-aide coordinator. The Service is offered by the Billings Chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons, and the Yellowstone Retired Teachers Association. Tax-aide counselors will be at the Senior Citizens Center, 13 N. 29th St., 10 a.m. to noon Tuesdays until the tax-filing season ends.

* * *

At a recent meeting of the *Gallatin County Advisory Committee* of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, Director Ken Baldwin reported that 40 volunteers are actively working. The program is part of a national effort which assists retired persons, 60 or older, to better serve their communities as volunteers. Volunteers are needed in Gallatin County at the public library, Camp Fire Girl's office, Gallatin County Health Office, American Red Cross, the Vo-Tech School, and Comprehensive Health Planning. For further information phone 587-5444.

Social security disability payments can be made only if the disability is expected to last at least one year.

Consumers Warned To Be Wary Of Unsolicited Phone Promotions

Crooked telephone solicitors are out in record numbers, according to a sheet distributed by the Capital Employee's Credit Union in Helena.

The sheet suggests that consumers learn to say "no" to telephone solicitors, especially those who say you have won something, or want to give you something absolutely free, or solicit your valued opinion because you are an outstanding member of the community.

The "absolutely free" deals often require only the payment of postage, which sometimes turns out to be more than the value of the article received. One pitch for free magazines commits the sucker to pay \$30 in inflated "postage charges."

A variation, the free encyclope-

dia deal that requires only that you pay for annual loose-leaf additions to keep the set up to date, is not much better. Buyers should be careful to get in writing on the contract the actual amount to be paid over the entire payment period.

The telephoner who wants to send a representative to record your valued opinion is after your money. Be careful of his deal. Perhaps he is selling "a new product awaiting public acceptance."

The publication suggests that targets of solicitors press for full identification of the caller and the company he represents before listening to the pitch. If the call is a legitimate deal, the caller will persist, but he may ring off if he is a phoney.



SENIORS HONORED—An American flag was presented to the Aging Services Bureau by the Helena VFW Auxiliary and the Helena Exchange Club. Lyle Downing, center, Aging Services Bureau chief, is shown receiving the flag from Glen N. Gray of the Exchange Club and Mrs. Thomas Mirehouse representing the VFW Auxiliary. The ceremony was arranged by Mrs. Doris Marsolais Marshall.

Recent Gov't. Publications of Interest

10AA—JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN—Senate Select Committee of Equal Educational Opportunity. Contains a reprint of an address by Senator Walter F. Mondale to the Senate on this Nation's failure to meet the recommendation of the 1970 White House Conference on Children.

1972. 33p. Y 4.Eq 2:C 43

S. N 5270-1507

20¢

20AA — REHABILITATIVE PLANNING SERVICES FOR THE CRIMINAL DEFENSE—

Presents an evaluation of the Offender Rehabilitation Project, a program to provide defense attorneys with social background information on indigent defendants for use in the criminal process, to work with those defendants to develop rehabilitative services, and to embody the social information and planning in reports for the attorneys' use in facilitating negotiated dispositions before trial or community-based sentences for convicted defendants. 1970. 210p. il.

J 1.36:70-3 S/N 2700-0060 \$1.00

EVALUATION OF ADMINISTRATION ON AGING AND CONDUCT OF WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON AGING, PART 10—Presents the joint hearing held before the Special Committee on Aging and the Subcommittee on Aging of the Senate Committee on Labor and Pub-

lic Welfare, 92d Cong., 2d sess., Washington, D.C., February 3, 1972. p. 597-648

Y 4.Ag 4.Ag 4-2-pt. 10

S. N 5270-1504

25¢

111A — PROJECTIONS OF DEMAND FOR HOUSING BY TYPE OF UNIT AND REGION

—Presents a computer model for projecting long-run demand for housing by type or unit and region. The primary purpose of this model is to provide a framework for projecting the future housing

demand under specified assumptions relating to population and economic growth. The study also presents three projections of possible housing demand for the period 1971-2020, based upon alternative assumptions about population and economic growth. 1972. 76 p. il. A 1.76:428

S. N 0100-2477

75¢

Send all requests for material to: Public Documents Distribution Center, Pueblo, Colorado 81009.



WORKERS FROM HELENA INDUSTRIES label, sort and mail over 10,000 issues of each edition of the SRS News. Pictured above are from left to right, Rex Anderson, Bill Amsk, supervisor; Arthur Engelke and Peggy Chilton. The whole process takes less than one week and is a valuable service to the publication of the newspaper.

Address all communications to Aging Services Bureau, 715 Fee St., Helena, Montana 59601



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